Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended)   A system for providing email communications, ~~An e-mail client~~ comprising:

a memory;

a processor coupled to the memory and configured to execute an e-mail client application, which includes:

message composition logic operable to compose a message to at least one recipient;

write protect logic operable to protect the message against subsequent alteration by ~~said~~ the at least one recipient, upon receiving a user indication to enable the write protect logic through conversion of a format of the text of the message to a format protected against alterations.

2. (Currently Amended)   The system ~~client~~ of claim 1, wherein the write protect logic comprises conversion logic operable to ~~change the file~~ convert the text of the message from a text format ~~file~~ to a picture format ~~file~~.

3. (Currently Amended)   The system ~~client~~ of claim 2, wherein the text of the message converted to the picture format ~~file~~ is included as an inline image within the transmitted message.

4. (Currently Amended)   The system ~~client~~ of claim 2, wherein the text of the message in the picture format ~~file~~ is stored on a central server for retrieval by the recipient.

5. (Currently Amended)   The system ~~client~~ of claim 2, wherein the text of the message converted to the picture format ~~file~~ is included as an attachment to the transmitted message.

6. (Currently Amended)   The ~~system~~ <u>client</u> of claim 2, wherein the picture <u>format</u> ~~file~~ is a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) file.

7. (Currently Amended)   The <u>system</u> ~~client~~ of claim 2, wherein the picture <u>format</u> ~~file~~ is a graphics image format (GIF) file.

8. (Currently Amended)   The <u>system</u> ~~client~~ of claim 1, wherein the write protect logic comprises conversion logic operable to <u>convert the text of the message</u> ~~change the file~~ from a text <u>format</u> ~~file~~ to a portable document format (PDF) ~~file~~.

9. (Currently Amended)   The <u>system</u> ~~client~~ of claim 1, wherein the composition logic is operable to allow the user to compose a new message, a reply to a received message or forward a received message.

10. (Currently Amended)   The <u>system</u> ~~client~~ of claim 1, wherein the client further comprises a user interface operable to allow the user to select a plurality of options, including enabling the write protect logic.

11. (Currently Amended)   A method of protecting e-mail, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

enabling a user to draft a message; and

converting ~~the~~ <u>a content of the</u> message into a write-protected format such that recipients are inhibited from altering the content.

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected format comprises a portable document format (PDF) ~~file~~.

13. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected format comprises a graphics image format (GIF) ~~file~~.

14. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected format comprises a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) ~~file~~.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, the method further comprising:

      enabling the user to choose whether to protect the message or not;

      wherein converting the message into a write-protected format is performed responsive to user choice.

16. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises sending the <u>content of the</u> message to at least one recipient in the write-protected format.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the message is stored on a central server for viewing by the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the message is downloaded to a computer for viewing by the user.

19. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 16, wherein the <u>content of the</u> message <u>in the write-protected format</u> is included <u>in the sent message</u> as an inline image file.

20. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 16, wherein the <u>content of the</u> message <u>in the write-protected format</u> is included <u>in the sent message</u> as an attachment.